(b) In the new scheme, the existing vacancy based promotion system has been replaced by a merit-based promotion system under flexible complementing, i.e. automatic upgradation of posts for promotions. The new scheme will enhance the promotion of the concerned personnel sustantially. Steps for implementation of the scheme have already been initiated and the scheme is expected to be implemented in later half of 1995.

Decommossioning of aircraft carriers

2581. SHRI JADGISH PRASAD MATHUR :
SHRI HIPHEI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that INS Vikrant and INS Virat the two aircraft carriers, are to be decommissioned in the next few years;

(b) What steps Government have taken for the replacement of these two naval ships;

(c) whether it is a fact that high Naval Officials have expressed apprehensions on the replacement of the two ships due to resource crunch; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) As per its anticipated life span, INS Vikrant is scheduled for decommissioning soon. INS Virat on the other hand is quite a few years away from the time when its decommissioning will be considered

(b) Government are alive to the requirements of the Navy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The country has had to face financial constraints during the past few years which have also had an impact on the Defence Budget. Moreover, available resources have to be allocated taking into account the threat perceptions, the capabilities of our potential adversaries and the inter se priorities fixed based on the above considerations.

Miltary traing is schools and colleges

2582. SHRI TINDIVNAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state .

(a) whether Government propose to introduce compulsory military training for the youth in schools and colleges;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether military science is taught at Higher Secondary Level as per the prinlciple "Catch them Young"; and

(d) if not, by when this scheme is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Introduction of compulsory military training is not considered to be consonant with the democratic ethos of our Country. Moreover, the benefits accuring therefrom are not likely to commensurate with the enormous expenditure which would be involved in such an effort.

(c) and (d) Teaching of Military Science as a part of the curriculum for the school stage has not been recommended by the NCERT.

Replacement of naval vessels

2583. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has deen drawn to the reports published in the 'Observer' of November 29, 1994 and 'Indian Express' of December 2, 1994 relating to the decline in the Naval power;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether most of the Naval vessels, aircraft carriers and submarines are nearing completion of their useful life, requiring replacement in the near future;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) what steps have already been taken or proposed to be taken for the timely replacement of such vessels keeping in view the security of the country;

(f) what concrete steps have been taken to build up our own capability for naval construction with a view to enable the country to become self-sufficient;

(g) what is the latest position about the plan to build an aircraft carrier with foreign design/assistance at Kochi; and

(h) how is the costly infrastructure created for the construction of HDW submarines at Mazagaon Dock, Ltd. being utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (h) Force levels of the Indian Navy are considered with reference to the Perspective Plan and Annual Plans drawn up for the purpose. These, in turn, take into account the geostrategic environment, threat perceptions and the availability of budgetary resources. Replacement of Naval ships is a continuing process. It is not in the interest of National security to furnish the details.

Attack on Indian Peace Keeping Force in Somalia

2584. SHRI HIPHEI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports indicating that Indian peace keeping troops will be attacked by militants when the former will leave Somalia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken adequate measures to avert the eventuality;

(d) whether Indian peace keeping troops were attacked by militants despite adequate measures taken by Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) . (a) to (e) No confirm reports have been received indicating that the Indian troops will be targetted during withdrawal from Somalia. However, some apprehensions were expressed by the UN that the withdrawing contingents from Somalia may get involved in a fighting withdrawal. Since the responsibility of deduction of troops lies with the UN, the matter was taken up with the UN authorities who assured that all measures would be taken to ensure a safe withdrawal. The Government of India are also providing assitance to the UN in deinduction of the Indian troops on the basis of request received from UN H qrs.

There has been no attack on our troops by militants in Somalia during the deinduction. However, in an incident of cross fire between two rival militia factions a round from Granade Projectile launcher landed on a barrack of the Indian contingent near the Mogadishu airport. five personnel sustained injuries. The condition of all the of them is stable.

Samba spy case

2585. SHRI K. R. MALKANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the so-called Samba spy case as reported in the 'Indian Express', dated the 4th December, 1994;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of army officers were falsely implicated in the alleged spying case ;

(c) what are the amends made to the harassed officers; and

(d) what are the penalties meted out to their tormentors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (b).